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Gleanings and Gossip

It requires 15,200 stenographers to do the office business of New York city. The voice of a man has been known to carry three miles through a twenty-foot trumpet.

The population of the territory now embraced in the German Empire has doubled since 1838.

Kobe is now the first port in the Japanese Empire; it has a population of not far from 400,000.

A hen attains her best laying capacity in her third year. She will lay in an average lifetime from 300 to 500 eggs.

In the Yukon mining regions electric lines for conveying power up to a distance of sixty miles have been installed.

The Church of England bishopric of Mackenzie river, in British North America, is five times as large as the United Kingdom.

Russia still buys all her tea in the form of tablets or bricks, probably owing to the convenience of transportation in early times.

Sir Walter Hillyer has been appointed expert adviser to the Chinese government. Sir Walter was born in China of English parents, and is a learned linguist. Li Hung Chang once said that he spoke and wrote Chinese as well as the most highly educated mandarin.

Rev. A. A. Nellis, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, Auburn, New York, in a recent sermon on the duty of the church to the community, said that one obligation that should not be shirked was to pay taxes. There is no good reason for church exemption, he believes, and the church should not be a tax-dodger.

Poisonous ribbons are the latest foe to the health of the occupants of the nursery. "I have a little girl eight months old, for whom I have made some pretty white hoods and capes, which I trim with soft satin bows," writes a correspondent of the London Daily Mail. "Last Wednesday I was trimming one with apple-green ribbon bought from one of the best shops in London. The child got hold of a short piece and sucked it, with the result that half an hour after she had convulsions and was very ill all night. Had she been a weakly child the green coloring matter would probably have killed her."

THE SUBMARINE FLAG.

Hereafter ship captains entering and sailing from New York will keep a sharp lookout for a craft flying a flag with a black fish on a white ground surrounded by a red border. The flag will indicate that a submarine boat is working in the vicinity, says the New York World.

The Secretary of the Navy, through T. R. Saunders, acting commissioner of the bureau of navigation, recently sent to customs officers official notification with a description of the flag for the benefit of the merchant marine.

The flag will be flown from the mast of a tender, or what is known as a "parent" ship, which always attends a submarine during experiments. It will mean that if a sailing vessel or steamship does not give the locality a wide berth there is the possibility of the submarine coming up underneath the merchant vessel and doing all sorts of damage.

It is said that the official notification just issued will precede the holding of a series of trials by submarine boats in New York harbor. No submarine has yet dived in the waters of New York bay.

ODD CLAUSE IN WILL.

An odd will has been filed by former Secretary of the Navy John D. Long for Robert Davis, an army officer who died in Lunenburg in December, 1889. A year after his death his wife Martha petitioned to be appointed administratrix. She said he had died without issue.

This will was dated November 29, 1882. Mr. Long found it at this late date among papers of the deceased client. The following is a rather unique clause in the will:

"To my son by my divorced wife, which son I never saw and whose name I never heard, I give and bequeath one American spread eagle in God we trust silver dollar."

An Atchison merchant tried to sell a vacuum bottle to a Missourian. "It will keep anything hot or cold seventy-two hours," he explained. "Don't want it, don't want it at all," replied the Missourian. "If I have anything worth drinking, I don't want to keep it seventy-two hours."

"I hear you are going to take your family to Europe." "Thinking some of it." "How will you go?" "By balloon." "But that isn't practical." "It will be by the time we get ready."—Nashville American.

"My poor man, how did you acquire such a thirst?" "It was dis-a-way, mister; when de doctor operated on me for appendicitis he forgot an' left a sponge inside o' me."—Boston Traveler.

"I started to tell my wife about a woman who made her own fall gown." "Well?" "She capped my story with one about a man who made a million dollars."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mrs. Benham—Why does a man hate his mother-in-law? Benham—He doesn't hate her; he simply hates to think of the way she got into his family.—Harper's Weekly.

"Mrs. Bildad says that she talks in her sleep." "That isn't the worst of it, either. She talks when she is awake."—Life.

Dyer—Well, I see Failing is on his feet again. Ryer—Yes; he was obliged to sell his auto.—Puck.



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